

REMARKS

The following remarks and attached are submitted in response to the Communication dated December 10, 2004 with regard to the instant application. In the Communication, the Examiner asserts that the amendment filed November 22, 2004 (mailed November 18, 2004) was non-compliant in the amendments to the claims because each claim was not provided with the proper status identifier and, as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified. In accordance with the requirements, Applicants re-submit herewith only the “Amendments to the claims” section, providing a complete listing of all the claims, with identifiers selected from: (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), and (not entered).

Status of the Claims

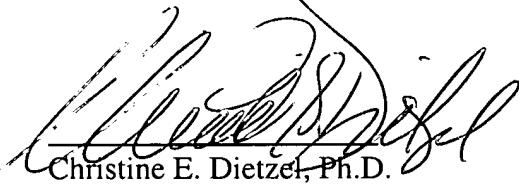
Claims 1-4, 9-14 and 9-22 are pending in the application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks in the file history of the instant Application. The Claims as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and withdrawal of all of the outstanding rejections is therefore believed in order. Early and favorable action on the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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